

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02640 091207Z

12

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 EB-04 RSC-01

/041 W

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O R 091138Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1933

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2640

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SEC. BUTZ OFFICE

BEIRUT FOR AGATT PITCHER

CAIRO FOR JOHN WEIDERT WITH SEC. BUTZ PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL)

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO SYRIA

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2587

B. WEIDERT/WRIGHT TELCON NOV. 8

1. AS PROMISED PARA. 6, REF. A, FOLLOWING ARE DRAFT ARRIVAL
AND DEPARTURE REMARKS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SECRETARY BUTZ.
TRANSLATOR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT AIRPORT TO TRANSLATE REMARKS.
IT IS NOT YET DEFINITE WHETHER PRESS WILL BE PRESENT.

2. ARRIVAL:

I WISH TO SAY HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE IN SYRIA, A
LAND WITH SUCH A LONG HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL
ACHIEVEMENT. I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO BE HERE
AT THIS TIME, FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION OF THE
FIRST WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. I FEEL THE ROME
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CONFERENCE MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ENSURING

THAT THE GROWING FOOD NEEDS OF THE WORLD CAN BE
MET. I LOOK FORWARD TO EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH
YOU, MR. MINISTER, AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT
OF SYRIA.

3. DEPARTURE:

I WAS TOLD TO EXPECT WARM HOSPITALITY FROM THE
SYRIANS, AND I NOW KNOW WHY ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES,
SECRETARY KISSINGER, COMES HERE AS OFTEN AS HE
DOES. I FOUND THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT
THE AGRICULTURE OF SYRIA VERY ENLIGHTENING, AND I
FULLY SHARE THE OPTIMISM I HAVE OBSERVED ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF THIS NATION'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL.
AGAIN, MRS. BUTZ, MY COLLEAGUES AND I WISH TO
THANK PRESIDENT ASAD, MINISTER ABOU-OMAR, AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA FOR THE VERY WARM WELCOME THEY
HAVE GIVEN TO US.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02640
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0570
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741156/aaaabvva.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. DAMASCUS 2587
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO SYRIA
TAGS: OVIP, (BUTZ, EARL)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005